GAIL has initiated action for commissioning a Detailed Feasibility Report Study for commercial implementation of Coal Gassification Process.

Shortage of NPK Fertilizers in West Bengal

1618. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all potato growing districts in West Bengal are facing acute shortage of NPK fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details of the shortage faced and time bound action plan to rush NPK fertilizers to the above districts, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) DAP and complex fertilizers are decontrolled and their availability depends on market forces of demand and supply. About 65,000 MP DAP was made available to West Bengal from 1st October to 30th November, 2004 which was sufficient to support the sales of 59,000 MT during the period. The State Government has not reported any serious shortage of complex fertilizers.

Reviewing the PPL sell off deals

1619. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to review the Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) sell off deal arrived at earlier;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status of the deal of sell off of PPL?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) M/s. Zuari Maroc Phosphates Ltd. who bought the Government stakes in Paradeep Phosphates Limited has submitted a post-closure claim of Rs. 151.55 crore on Government. As the report of the auditors

was not mutually agreeable to both the parties, a fresh audit has been mutually authorized.

Import of fertilizers

1620. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of different varieties of fertilizers is being imported every year;

(b) if so, the details of import duty during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the domestic production?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There are three main varieties of finished fertilizers, namely Urea, DAP and MOP, which meets the agronomic requirements of the farmers. Out of these fertilizers, Urea is under price and partial movement control of the Government of India, and a small quantum of this fertilizer is imported on Government account, through the State Trading Enterprises, like, MMTC, STC and IPL, to bridge the gap between indigenous production and domestic requirements. DAP & MOP are decontrolled fertilizers and these are imported freely by various companies based on their assessment of demand. MOP is a mineral fertilizer and its demand is met through imports, as there is no commercially viable indigenous source known in the country. Therefore, the import of MOP is in huge quantity. The table below shows the quantity of fertilizers imported in the last three years:—

Year	Urea (Qty. in Lakh Mts.)	DAP (Qty. in Lakh Mts.)	MOP (Qty. in Lakh Mts.)
2001-02	2.20	9.33	28.34
2002-03	—	3.70	25.32
2003-04	—	7.34	25.79

(b) Import duty on finished fertilizer was 5% of the landed price of the material during the last three years.

(c) A pricing policy has been unveiled recently on 29.1.2004 for setting up new urea projects and expansion of existing urea projects for augmenting